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24 July 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, OGB
Assistant Director, OSG
Chief, IASS

SUBJECT: Biographic Indices and Files

1. With reference to the attached letter from General Irwin dated 20 July, kindly let COMPS know in a few days the extent to which CIA's Biographic Register and biographic files in OGB, OSG and IASS (if they are all kept separate) can supply the data requested. Obviously no one can keep a file or even an index of the world's population, or of all our friends or enemies, American or foreign!

2. Also, for our reply to General Irwin, we should like to know approximate numbers of names in 1. our Biographic Indices and 2. our files or dossiers on people; and a brief outline of how we would use this information to meet a specific request from the Army.

3. State, of course, would never go for our adding their biographic files to ours, and a complete index thereof would probably be more than we could handle expeditiously. Do the IAC agencies all send us in names for machine record indices? I should say that the centralization of "security checks" and "derogatory information" on Americans at any rate is certainly NOT the business of the Central Intelligence Agency, but rather of the FBI and the internal security committees which it chairs and on which the Army has members.

PRESCOTT CHILES, Chief
Coordination, Operations
and Policy Staff

Enclosure

Memo for Chairman, IAC, from General Irwin dated 20 July 1950

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